

**Case 3222*****Papilio eurymedon* Lucas, 1852 (Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of *Papilio eurymedon* Lucas, 1852 for the well-known swallowtail butterfly from western North America (family PAPILIONIDAE). The name is threatened by the unused senior subjective synonym *P. antinous* Donovan, 1805, which until 1985 had been thought to be an Australian species. It is proposed that the senior synonym is suppressed and the case is brought to the Commission under Recommendation 23A of the Code.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Lepidoptera; PAPILIONIDAE; *Papilio eurymedon*; *Papilio antinous*; swallowtail butterfly; western North America; Mexico.

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1. Donovan (1805, pl. 16) illustrated a new species of swallowtail butterfly (family PAPILIONIDAE), naming it *Papilio antinous*. The holotype is in the Australian National Insect Collection (see Upton, 1985, p. 167). Donovan was mistaken in thinking that the species came from New South Wales, Australia. Later, Godart in Latreille & Godart (1819, p. 54) further compounded the error by identifying the origin of this species as New Holland (a former name for Australia). The nominal taxon *P. antinous* has remained in the listings of Australian species until 1985, when its inclusion in the Australian fauna was demonstrated to be erroneous by Upton (1985).

2. Lucas (1852, p. 140) described a new swallowtail butterfly, *Papilio eurymedon*, from California (U.S.A.). This species is the well-known and common pale or pallid tiger swallowtail of the western United States and Canada (see Scott, 1986, p. 182; Emmel et al., 1998b).

3. *P. antinous* has not been used as a valid name in relation to the North American fauna. Upton (1985, p. 169) examined the holotype of *P. antinous* and discovered it to be conspecific with specimens of *P. eurymedon*. The name *P. antinous* is therefore a senior subjective synonym of *P. eurymedon*. The only reference to the name *P. antinous* in North American literature prior to 1985 was by Doubleday (1844; 1846), who mistakenly synonymised *P. antinous* with the name for an eastern North American swallowtail, *Papilio turnus* Linnaeus, 1771 (currently *P. glaucus* Linnaeus).

1758); this synonymy has not been repeated subsequently by other authors. Under Article 23.9.6 of the Code, 'the mentioning of a name in a synonymy, or its mere listing in an abstracting publication, or in a nomenclator or other index or list of names must not be taken into account in determining usage under Articles 23.9.1.1 and 23.9.1.2. Accordingly, neither Upton (1985) nor Doubleday (1844; 1846) constitutes a valid use of the name *antinous*.

4. *Papilio eurymedon* Lucas, 1852 (or in various other combinations such as *Pterourus eurymedon*) is the name that has been applied to this taxon since Lucas first described the species. This name has been used exclusively in North American literature for over 140 years, e.g. Morris (1862, p. 4), Dyar (1902, p. 2), Comstock (1927, p. 24), Brown et al. (1957, p. 229), Scott (1986, p. 182), Emmel (1998, p. 826), Opler (1999, p. 140) and numerous other publications, a list of which dates from 1844 to 1999 and is held by the Commission's Secretariat.

5. Boisduval (1852, p. 280) also described the pale tiger swallowtail and gave it the name *Papilio eurymedon*, but this post-dated the publication of Lucas's (1852) description. Boisduval put forward the name in an oral presentation on 25 February 1852, but this was not published until August 1852. Lucas, who meant merely to note some new Californian species in Boisduval's collection, had his paper published first in March/July 1852, and hence his name has priority (see Emmel et al., 1998a, p. 3; 1998b, p. 77).

6. According to Upton (1985, p. 169) there would appear to be a clear case for application to the Commission for suppression of the name *P. antinous*, thereby preventing the threat to the established stability of the name *P. eurymedon*. Both conditions of Article 23.9.1 of the Code are met in relation to the names *P. antinous* and *P. eurymedon* and the case for suppression of the name *P. antinous* is brought to the Commission under Recommendation 23A of the Code.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *antinous* Donovan, 1805, as published in the binomen *Papilio antinous*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *eurymedon* Lucas, 1852, as published in the binomen *Papilio eurymedon*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *antinous* Donovan, 1805, as published in the binomen *Papilio antinous* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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